

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



Recreational Trails Program Guidelines

Eligible and ineligible project types and activities

RTP funds can only reimburse project expenditures incurred after the project start date and identified in the approved Funding Strategy Narrative and Budget forms. The following is a list of eligible and non-eligible project types and expenses.

Eligible Project Types

- Construction and maintenance of trails:
 - Clearing/brushing on federal lands will only be allowed to the standard clearing widths identified in the appropriate federal agency trail guidelines.
 - On federal lands, grants will only be approved for trails legally designated by the appropriate federal agency that are included in recognized forest plans, resource area plans, or travel plans.
 - Broad scale maintenance will require specific trail identification and specific description of work to be accomplished.
 - Weed control related to a trail or trail projects.
- Restoration of areas damaged by trail use.
- Development of trailside and trailhead facilities.
- Development of urban trail linkages near homes and workplaces; linkages must connect to a larger trail system.
- Operation of trails-related environmental protection and safety education programs.
- Development and dissemination of publications and operation of educational programs to promote safety and environmental protection related to trails (including supporting non-law enforcement trail safety and trail use monitoring patrol programs and providing trail-related training) (limited to 5% of a DC's funds).
- Acquisition of easements and fee simple title of property for trails.
- Signs (wayfinding signs) and other traffic control devices relating to trail use (such devices must conform to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices).
- Purchase of trail-specific equipment to be used on a long-term or seasonal basis (equipment must meet Buy America requirements).

Ineligible Project Types and Elements

- Land acquisition by condemnation
- Grant administration expenses claimed as direct costs or matching costs, including, but not limited to salaries or volunteer hours for time spent on grant administration; software for grant administration (i.e, QuickBooks), etc.

- Projects intended solely for the purpose of covering environmental evaluation and documentation costs, needs assessments, visitor studies, etc.
- Feasibility studies.
- Law enforcement activities.
- Projects managed as profit-making entities.
- Trail projects on routes not legally designated by the appropriate land management agency.
- Projects that displace fish and wildlife species, reduce habitat effectiveness, cause irreparable damage to vegetation, soils, water, wild public lands, and/or substantially increase conflicts
- Trails, or any project pertaining to that trail, currently under litigation in a court of law
- Projects that have the potential to substantially alter legal use patterns or make the trail substantially less desirable for the spectrum of current users.
- Projects that destroy or compromise the special characteristics of roadless lands.
- Landscaping that exceeds mitigation planting or reseeding efforts in conjunction with a trail or trailhead construction project.
- Funds associated with improving roads for passenger vehicle use, including roads to trailheads.
- Legal fees.
- Gifts, including clothing, purchased for volunteer work crews or employees.
- Volunteer celebration and recruitment efforts and events.
- Professional development events for staff, volunteers, etc.
- Transportation facilities, such as bike lanes, sidewalks, and other active transportation facilities —unless small portions complete linkages to trail systems or provide increased trail connectivity.
- Skill building facilities that are standalone facilities and not connected to a trail system.